

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, December 1875, with transcript

Letter from Miss Mabel G. Hubbard to Mr. Alexander Graham Bell. Cambridge, Wednesday evening. (Dec. 1875) Dear Mr. Bell:

Some words seen as I opened your letter this morning so alarmed me that I retired to another room to read the letter alone. The alarm increased as I read on and it was not until I came to the signature that I discovered the hoax. I concluded you must have gone "stark staring mad," for your writing the books autobiography never entered my head, and I supposed after your solemn preface your intended me to take everything for gospel truth. You would have been amused at the relief I felt on seeing the signature, it was really asking a great deal for me to sympathise with such a tale of horrors. I cannot understand it now, but though I thought it the most extraordinary thing I ever heard, the impossibility of a baby's outliving such treatment as you described did not strike me. After such proof of stupidity I am glad to say that I did not need prompting to see there is more in the letter than meets the eye. I showed your production to Mamma and Sister, and they were much amused and pleased. Mamma declared you have more sides than a prison, and is anxious to know what other side you will show next, in which I quite agree with her.

Expect a good scolding for the fright, and many thanks for the pleasure you have given me, when you come again, meanwhile

I am yours sincerely, Mabel G. Hubbard.